

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 TRSE-00 AGR-20 AID-20

EB-11 RSC-01 COME-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 STR-08 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7661

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OECD FOR AMBASSADOR MARTIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, EAGR, UN, FAC, SU

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 010697

1. SUMMARY: USG AND GOS POSITIONS ON WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE APPEAR CLOSE HAVING, FROM SUDANESE PERSPECTIVE, APPARENTLY NARROWED CONSIDERABLY SINCE UNGA MEETING. IN GENERAL WE BELIEVE GOS LIKELY BE APPROACHABLE AND PRAGMATIC ON ISSUE WHICH OF DIRECT CONCERN TO IT. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF REVIEWED USG THINKING ON WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (WFC) IN GENERAL AND FIRST PREPCOM IN PARTICULAR WITH MAMOUN IBRAHIM HASSAN, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL ORG DEPT, MFA, AND WITH IZZ AL-DIN HAMID, MEMBER OF GOS UN MISSION WHO WORKED ON WFC RES IN UNGA AND CURRENTLY IN KHARTOUM FOR SERIES OF CONFERENCES. HASSAN CONFIRMED THAT SUDAN HAD REGISTERED ITS INTEREST

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IF PARTICIPATING IN PREPCOM SESSION SCHEDULED FOR NEW

YORK FEB 11-15 WITH HAMID TO BE KEY REPRESENTATIVE.

3. DISCUSSION OF RESPECTIVE HOPES FOR AND NECESSARY LIMITATION ON WFC INDICATED CONSIDERABLE AREA OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOS AND USG. THERE IS POTENTIAL FOR DIFFERENCE IN INTERPRETATION AS TO HOW FAR WFC SHOULD GO IN DISCUSSING RELATED ISSUES SUCH AS TRADE WHICH SUBJECT TO ACTION BY OTHER FORUMS. BUT TO EXTENT IT WAS POSSIBLE EXPLORE DETAILS GOS THINKING RE THIS POINT, IT APPEARED THAT, AT LEAST BETWEEN SUDAN AND US, DIFFERENCE SHOULD BE SMALL. IN FACT HAMID EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SURPRISE AT SCOPE OF TENTATIVE OUTLINE FOR WFC AS SET FORTH REFTEL. HE CLAIMED US DEL DURING UNGA DISCUSSION HAD BEEN RIGID IN WISHING SEE WFC FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON FOOD PRODUCTION. LDCS ON OTHER HAND HAD BELIEVED IT ESSENTIAL THAT OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS TRADE, DISTRIBUTION, STORAGE AND LIKE ALSO BE CONSIDERED. NOW, WITH THESE ITEMS INCLUDED IN USG PROPOSAL, DIFFERENCES SEEM HAVE DISAPPEARED.

4. HASSAN DID INDICATE SOME LDCS MIGHT WISH PUSH FOR MORE SPECIFIC ACTION IN SOME OF THESE RELATED AREAS THAN USG BELIEVED POSSIBLE AND/OR ADVISABLE, BUT GOS VIEW AS EXPOUNDED BY HASSAN AND HAMID APPEARED BE LARGELY IN LINE WITH OURS. THEY WERE RECEPTIVE TO POINTS RE LIMITS OF WHAT COULD BE DONE IN WFC, RE FOCUS WHICH IT SHOULD THEREFORE HAVE ON FOOD, AND RE AVOIDING DUPLICATION WORK OF OTHER FORUMS.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE FOREGOING, GOS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO GROUP PRESSURES ONCE PREPCOM AND WFC ITSELF GET UNDERWAY. AT SAME TIME, FOOD IS ISSUE, ON WHICH GOS CLEARLY RECOGNIZES ITS OWN DIRECT INTERESTS INVOLVED. WE THEREFORE CONCLUDE SUDANESE DEL LIKELY BE RECEPTIVE TO CONSULTATION WITH USDEL AND THAT, WHILE SEEKING MEND ITS AFRICAN AND ARAB FENCES, IT LIKELY TAKE GENERALLY PRAGMATIC APPROACH FREE FROM PRE-SET BLOC POSITIONS.
BREWER

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